

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04209 130739Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05
HA-05 COME-00 ARA-10 ACDA-12 /141 W
-----038491 130743Z /17

P 121630Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1443
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4209

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 141940

1. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE (LAMBERT) AND I MET LAST WEEK
ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL AND HIS PARALLEL INSTSTRUCTIONS AND
DESIDED TO PRESENT THE MOFA WITH A JOINT DEMARCHE. WE
MET AT NOON TODAY WITH BRAHIM TURKI, SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND BECHIR GUIBLAOU, DIRECTOR OF
THE AFRICAN DIVISION, MOFA.

2. WE FOUND BOTH TUNISIANS WELL INFORMED ON THE RHODESIAN
PROBLEM AND WHOLLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ANGLO-US
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FORMULA. TURKI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT US AND UK WERE
MAKING SIMILAR APPROACHES IN ALL OAU CAPITALS, ADDING THAT HE
FELT THE ATMOSPHERE AND TIMING WAS PROPITIOUS FOR
SUCCESS AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT. A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF
THE US-UK PLAN BY ALL OAU MEMBERS WOULD MAKE EASIER THE
TASK OF THE MODERATE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT IT AT KHARTOUM.
I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "ROUND TABLE" FEATURE

OF OUR PLAN AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, IF THIS VITAL ASPECT OF IT COULD NOT GAIN POSITIVE OAU ENDORSEMENT, IT SHOULD AT LEAST NOT BE SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED AT THE SUMMIT. LAMBERT EMPHASIZED THE VERY DIFFICULT AND DELICATE STAGE AT WHICH EMPHASIZED THE VERY DIFFICULT AND DELICATE STAGE AT WHICH THE GRAHAM-LOW NEGOTIATIONS HAD ARRIVED AND PLEADED OUR NEED FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY NOW.

3. TURKI EXPRESSED THE GOT'S PLEASURE IN SEEING THE US AND UK SO ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THIS EFFORT AND HOPED IT WOULD SUCCEED NOT ONLY BRINGING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO RHODESIA BUT ALSO IN THWARTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER SOVIET/CUBAN MEDDLING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE WARNED US, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY MEMBER-- "EVEN YOUR BEST FRIENDS" -- TO GET OUT IN FRONT AS CHAMPIONS OF OUR FORMULA. "LIFE IN THE OAU IS JUST NOT LIKE THAT," HE SAID, SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE AT MANY OAU MEETINGS. BUT OUR FRIENDS, IF WELL INFORMED OF OUR VIEWS, COULD CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL IN GAINING TIME AND ROOM FOR US TO PURSUE OUR INITIATIVE. AT HIS REQUEST WE LEFT A COPY OF OUR TALKING POINTS, VIRTUALLY VERBATIM RENDITION OF PARAS I THROUGH IX OF REFTTEL.
MULCAHY

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